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# A SERIOUS ADMONITION to THE PUBLICK, on the *Intended* THIEF-COLONY at *Botany Bay*.

LONDON:

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For JOHN SEWELL, at the Corner of Cooper's Court,
Oppolite the *Royal Exchange*. 1786.

3d September, 1786.

WE often ſee men grow giddy, and loſe their ſenſes, by being carried to a great elevation; This happens, not leſs frequently in the Political, than in the Natural, World: To what other cauſe can we aſcribe the Plan of the preſent Miniſtry? to ſend the *Convicts* to *Botany Bay*, on the Eaſt-Side of NEW-HOLLAND, whilſt This Country is ſtill ſmarting for a War with Her old Colonies, whom ſhe found herſelf unable to keep in dependance.

In the Conſtitution of *Sooloo*, there is an Officer, called *Maha Raja Lela*, whoſe duty it is, to admoniſh the Sultan and Officers of State, when they neglect, or ſwerve from their publick Duty; amongſt the various new offices eſtabliſhed, ſome may think ſuch an Officer would be a uſeful inſtitution in this Country; I hope, however, the temper and diſpoſition of Engliſhmen, will always continue to make every Individual think *himſelf* veſted with the right and priviledge of a *Maha Raja Lela*, when ever he ſees Miniſters acting contrary to the Intereſt of His Country: Milton has well deſcribed the State of Liberty that ought to be maintained.

This

This is true Liberty, when free-born Men,
Having t'adviſe the Public, may ſpeak free.
The Man, who can, and will, deſerves high praiſe:
Who neither can, nor will, may hold his peace.
What? in a State, can be more juſt than This?

The Wiſdom of our Forefathers granted, to the Eaſt-India Company, a Charter of *excluſive Trade* and *Navigation*; from the Cape of Good-Hope to the Strait of Magellan: or, in other words, to all Countries to the Eaſt of Africa and Weſt of America; nor can any other Limits effectually ſecure that excluſive Trade, wiſely meant by The State to be delegated, to The Eaſt-India Company, for the common advantage, conſidering the Commerce of the Eaſt, in the great Scale of General Intereſt; and foregoing, for the permanent and common benefit of this Realm, any partial or temporary advantage: and well aware, that the *India Trade* cannot be protected by *Treaties*, and regulated by *Conſuls*; but muſt be carried on in armed veſſels; and, conſequently, requires the *ſtability* and *diſcretion* of a well regulated Company, to *protect* the *Commerce*, and prevent the *Trader*, on the other hand, from becoming his own Judge and Avenger.

I ſhall

I ſhall not enquire whether The Eaſt-India Company, legally, *can* make a *transfer*, of their *excluſive Charter*; becauſe, by all I can learn, *They* were not conſulted, or even by Miniſters made acquainted with this Scheme, before the Advertiſement appeared, in the News-papers, for Tenders to be made of Tranſports, to carry it into effect.

But ſurely it ill becomes a Miniſtry, who declamed on their Predeceſſors attack of ſacred Charters by the authority of Parliament! To ſubvert a Charter! without any ſanction of Parliament, and in direct Violation of thoſe Acts of Parliament, which confirm the *excluſive Right* in the Charter of the Eaſt-India Company. Some men may, perhaps, think *This* an Act of a felonious nature, which would well entitle ſuch Miniſters to be ſent, with the Convicts already deſtined for that exportation: and ſuch an Event might, perhaps, by ſome be conſidered, at leaſt, as a *qualification*, if not a compenſation, for the ill conſequences to be dreaded from this ill-conſidered Plan.

This Country has of late been unfortunate in ſhort ſighted Miniſters, who have adopted meaſures

meaſures of the Moment, without a forecaſt to remote conſequences: and thus, America was loſt by one Adminiſtration: It is to be hoped Another Miniſtry will not be permitted to loſe the Eaſt-Indies! at leaſt not before They have, by their efficient œconomy, paid off the *National Debt*.

> By painful Saving, of one groat a-day,
> Hope to reſtore the Patrimony ſpent.
>
> Sir John Davis.

As the Publick, in general, may not be aware of the conſequences which are threatned, by this raſh and ill-adviſed Plan of the Miniſtry; it ſhall be my endeavour to explain the Matter.

This Project has, under various forms, been for ſeveral years in agitation; and although ſome of the motives aſſigned are ſo abſurd, that it is ſcarcely credible, they could have been aſſigned; Yet, The Public may be aſſured, no one motive is alledged, that was not really aſſigned.

Laſt year application was made to The Eaſt-India-Company for their permiſſion to ſettle *Norfolk Iſland* in 29° S. Lat. oppoſite to the Eaſt Coaſt of New-Holland. To this application, I am aſſured, The Eaſt India Company

Company gave a poſitive negative: and as The Miniſters are now, officially, made acquainted with all the proceedings of the Court of Directors of The Eaſt India Company, They could not have been ignorant of this application and refuſal: and were therefore more particularly required, to have diſcuſſed the matter with the Court of Directors, before they came to their preſent determination; That The Eaſt India Company might have had an opportunity of enforcing their objections, if the Miniſtry could not have done away thoſe objections, by the weight of their arguments, inſtead of the force of their Power.

The Court of Directors having on this Subject, received the Sentiments of a Gentleman, whom They, from his long experience and knowledge of The Company's Affairs, thought proper to conſult; The Public will doubtleſs thank me for a Copy of his Letter: and it is well known this Gentleman's Opinion is always given, when called for, according to the beſt of his Judgement, without any conſideration whom it may pleaſe or diſpleaſe.

This

This Letter enters ſo fully into the Subject, that I ſhall make no further preface to it.

To the Honourable The Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company.

Gentlemen,

1. In conſequence of your requeſt, I now lay before You my Sentiments, on the application made to You, concerning *Norfolk Iſland*, in Latitude 29° 2′. 30″ S. Long. 168° 16′ E. fr. Greenwich.

2. This Island is unequivocally ſituated within the limits of The Company's Charter, which comprehends every Place, from the Cape of Good Hope, to the Strait of Magellan, or, in other words, on the Eaſt of Africa and Weſt of America; nor can any other limits effectually ſecure that excluſive Trade, wiſely meant by the State to be delegated to The Company for the common advantage.

3. The Objects propoſed to Your Conſideration by this Eſtabliſhment, are, to ſupply India

India with Cordage, and with Maſts, for want of which the Maritime Force employed in India has often been reduced to diſtreſs.

4. When we conſider the ſituation of Norfolk Iſland, relatively to India, and the length of the Paſſage, which can ſcarcely be ſuppoſed ſo little as three Months to Madraſs; the inconvenience and expence of affording an ample and certain ſupply, to a precarious want, ſuch as that of a Squadron on Service, from a remote Place where there is no common intercourſe: It would, in my Judgement, be madneſs, to place ſuch confidence in that ſupply, as to leave the Squadron dependant on it; and if a proviſion is made, from Europe, or other parts of India; then the proſpect will not be ſufficient for Settlers at Norfolk Island, to ſend Cargoes of ſuch bulky quality on ſpeculation to India, ſuppoſing they had ſhipping for that purpoſe.

5. I conceive a due conſideration of theſe circumſtances will convince any impartial perſon, that the Objects, obtruded to view, will neither be beneficial to the adventurers nor to the Publick.

6. Supplies of Maſts and Cordage may always be provided in India, or from China, in the ordinary courſe of Navigation for a conſtant, or even an unexpected, demand: The Gumaty makes the beſt Cables in the World, having all the good qualities of Coir,[a] without the danger of receiving injury from freſh water. The *Brown* Gumaty is the produce of China, The *Black* of Cochin-China, and moſt of the Eaſtern Islands, and, I believe, alſo of Pegu and Siam: The China Hemp is inferiour to none, and is conſtantly uſed, by our China Ships, for Topſail-tyes and Tiller-Ropes.

7. All the Coaſts of Sumatra, Borneo, &c. abound with Maſts; though it would be very proper

[a] *Coir* is the *Huſk* of the *Coconut*, and *Gumaty* the protruded Fibres of the leaf of a ſpecies of the Palm Tree.

proper to examine the fitteſt Places, for obtaining either a conſtant or accidental Supply: for which ſo *ſmall* an *Iſland* as *Norfolk Iſland* is quite incompetent.

8. This Project of a Settlement in that quarter has appeared in many Proteus-like forms; ſometimes as a half-way houſe to China, again as a check upon the *Spaniards* at *Manila*; and their *Accapulco Trade:* ſometimes as a receptacle for tranſported Convicts; then as a Place of Aſylum, for American Refugees; and ſometimes as an Emporium, for ſupplying our Marine Yards with Hemp or Cordage: or for carrying on the Fur-Trade to the NW Coaſt of America; juſt as the Temper of Miniſters was ſuppoſed to be inclined to receive a favourable impreſſion,

9. When I firſt heard of the Project, I was clearly convinced, that the greater part, at leaſt, of theſe pretenſions, were only the oſtenſible reaſons, urged to cover other deſigns, of great and important conſequence to

the Welfare of this Country and of The Company, which, ſo far as concerns the exclusive Charter, is undiviſible.

10. The abſurdity of ſuch an idea, as bringing a ſupply of ſo bulky an Article, as Hemp and Cordage for our Marine Yards, from ſo great a diſtance, and conſequently at ſo high a freight, is too great to merit any ſerious conſideration: though the introduction of the New-Zeland Hemp Plant into Britain, is an Object of great National Importance, and as ſuch, worthy The Company's Attention.

11. Concerning the *Spaniards*; a Settlement in that quarter could have leſs effect as a *check*, than our preſent Settlements in India; nor are the Philippin Iſlands of that Political Conſequence, to the Spaniards, to have any operative influence in Europe or America; the poſſeſſion of the Iſlands ſcarcely repaying the expence to government, and the Trade, to Accapulco, being entirely carried on, for the benefit of the Inhabitants of Manila; with

with very little advantage to Spain: who would be more benefited by the exportation of their own manufactures, than by ſupplying New Spain, through this channel, with the Commodities of China and India; for which laſt, we, and our Indian Subjects, reap very conſiderable advantage. [a]

12. It was alledged that this was a more expeditious and ſecure paſſage, to China, in Peace or War, than thoſe at preſent practiſed; as Ships would avoid paſſing through *Straits*, as they do at preſent. This Opinion was the offspring of Ignorance, ſuppoſing thoſe parts, where no Lands were deſcribed, to be open Sea; becauſe unknown: whereas, in truth, the probability of a long paſſage, is much greater than in any of the preſent Tracks, not only from the great increaſe of diſtance, but as, in the preſent tracks, the rout in low Latitudes, where light and

[a] It is reported that the Spaniards have made Manila a *free Port*; this makes it ſtill more an object of advantage to us, than above ſtated.

and variable winds prevail, is ſhorter, and through Seas, where it is natural to expect a more ſteady Monſoon, than towards the great Ocean: and the *danger* of *paſſing Straits*, is not removed, but encreaſed; the Paſſage being through *unknown*, or *unfrequented*, *Straits*, inſtead of through *ſuch* as *are well known*.

13. The Proſecution of the Fur-Trade to the NW Coaſt of America from this propoſed Settlement, which has no particular advantage of ſituation for that purpoſe, I conſidered merely as a Tub to the Whale, for that Trade will probably be exhauſted, or fixed in another Channel, before a voyage thither could be fitted out from ſuch an infant Settlement.

14. The Eſtabliſhment of a Colony in that quarter, wherever it may be firſt fixed, muſt have a View to New-Holland: and if an European Colony be eſtabliſhed, on that extenſive

extenſive Country, It is obvious it muſt become very ſoon independant; and I will add, very dangerous to England.

15. In moſt new eſtabliſhed Colonies men devote themſelves to Huſbandry, but the probable conſequence of a Colony on New-Holland, would be their addicting themſelves to Piratical excurſions amongſt the Iſlands, and on the Coaſt of China; The long tranquility, under which The Chineſe Government has ſubſiſted, has ſo enervated them, that an European Veſſel of 100 Tons would capture the largeſt and richeſt Junk of the Chineſe, or land with impunity, and carry into Captivity multitudes of Chineſe men, women and children; the fatal conſequences that would enſue, are too obvious to require much diſcuſſion: The regular Trade at Canton would have demands made for indemnification, which the whole property there would not compenſate; and the lives of the fair trader and the total loſs of the Trade,

to China might be the forfeit for the tranſgreſſions of theſe Pirates; who would be beyond reach, if divided, and too formidable for puniſhment if united.

16. This Project was, at one time, to have been protected by *Imperial Colours*, as well as *Engliſh*; and this explains the true proſpects of the Undertakers: viz. to carry on an *illicit Trade*, under pretext of a *Colony*: When it is conſidered how venial the fraud of illicit Trade is generally thought, it is not ſurprizing to find Men of Character take a part in ſuch ſchemes, but every Perſon concerned may not be influenced by theſe motives, but be guided by honourable views of intereſt and laudable ambition: though made the Dupes of deſigning men. But it behoves The Company, as the Guardians of the Publick Welfare, to oppoſe every attempt to break in upon the excluſive Charter, more eſſentially neceſſary *now* we have ſuch an intereſt at Stake in India.

17. It

17. It has been alledged, we cannot prevent other Nations from proſecuting this Project. Perhaps no other Nation has energy enough to eſtabliſh a Colony there, particularly if we diſcountenance and obſtruct them. But if any other Nation makes the attempt, we are not expoſed to the conſequences of an illicit trade, under pretence of an Engliſh Colony; nor are we liable to be made reſponſible, for the enormities they commit; and, if we find They can bring the Project to bear, then it may become our intereſt to interfere, by way of competition, but never 'till then.

18. I have annexed a Map to elucidate the Subject. I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient,
humble Servant,
(ſigned)
A. DALRYMPLE.

Titchfield Street,
13th July, 1785

I ſhall add, by way of elucidation, a few obſervations on parts of this letter.

Par. 12. Thoſe who are not converſant with the Indian Navigation, may receive much information from a Tract, concerning the Paſſages to and from China at all Seaſons; publiſhed by Mr. Dalrymple: but leſt a reader might be miſled to ſuppoſe Mr. Dalrymple was not conſiſtent, in repreſenting *This* as a long round about way to China, in the one inſtance; and, in the other, as convenient for piratical excurſions on the Coaſt of China. It muſt be remembered, there is a very great difference, between large Ships, ſuch as Indiamen, and ſmall Veſſels, in which Piratical Excurſions would be made; that it is not known whether there be depth for an Indiaman through Endeavour Strait, and that flat bottomed Veſſels, ſuch as China Junks, draw leſs water than the Endeavour, although of greater burthen: It is alſo to be conſidered, that Mr. Dalrymple

ſpeaks

ſpeaks of Ships ſailing for China from England, or India; and not commencing their Voyage from Botany Bay, or any part of New-Holland.

Par. 13. It might have been added, that the Voyage from England to Norfolk Iſland, was as long, as the Voyage from England to the NW Coaſt of America; and therefore to go to the *former*, in the way to the *laſt*, was only fit for the Navigators of *Gotham*.

Par. 15. Mr. Dalrymple having conſidered the probability of Piratical Excurſions on the Coaſt of China, *only* from the natural propenſity the *Strong* have to prey on the *weak*, This cauſe of apprehenſion is infinitely encreaſed, by the preſent project, of ſending the Convicts thether; and This Object ought to be carefully conſidered in every point of View: "Who would have thought it?" is *The Title* to *The Fool's Calender:* Every poſſible Objection ſhould be weighed

by the Wiſe Statesman, and his determination may then be wiſely made.

It ought to be, with all Governments, more the Object of conſideration, to *prevent* than to *puniſh* Crimes: and the only *political Senſe* of Puniſhments, is, by operating as an example to deter others.

The Plan the Miniſtry propoſe, muſt rather be conſidered as *encouraging* than *detering Felons*; for, What is the Puniſhment intended to be inflicted? *Not* to make the Felons undergo *ſervitude* for the *benefit* of *others*, as was the Caſe in America: but to place them, as their own Maſters, in a temperate Climate, where they have *every object* of *comfort* or *Ambition* before them! and although it might be going too far to ſuppoſe, *This* will *incite* men to become *Convicts*, that they may be *comfortably* provided for; yet ſurely it cannot *deter* men, inclined to commit Theft and Robbery, to know that, in caſe they are detected

detected and convicted, *all* that will *happen* to them is, " That they will be ſent, at the " Publick Expence, to a good Country and " temperate Climate, where they will be " their own Maſters."

Some Wiſeacre will perhaps tell me, " They are *not* to be their *own Maſters*", but that a Man of War is to go with them, and remain there, to keep them in ſubjection. This idea is in perfect uniſon with the whole Project.—Are they to be chained to the Spot where the Guard-ſhip lyes? are they to be faſcinated to the Place by the eloquent harangues of a Youthful Adventurer; the Barrington or the Pitt of the Gang[a]? or have our Conjurers at the Helm, found out a *Charm*, to keep thoſe wretches in order and ſubjection at *Botany Bay*, which the *Energy* of their Government *at home*, cannot do in *England?*

[a] " Why is Barington," late Maſter of Arts in the Woolwich Univerſity, " like Pam? Becauſe he makes fine " ſpeeches and picks People's Pockets." a *Foxite's* Conundrum,

*England?* No other way can be deviſed of keeping the Convicts on the Spot in ſubjection, after they are landed, in an *unſettled Country*, like NEW HOLLAND; but a line of circumvallation of armed Men, which would expend *more* than all the Savings of the Civil Liſt for years to come.

I ſhall therefore conſider the matter, as if the Convicts were meant, to be abſolutely left to themſelves.

Men who give implicit confidence to Newspaper quotations, may indeed ſuppoſe that the Convicts, landed at Botany Bay, cannot migrate from thence: being ſurrounded by impervious Woods, inhabited by Canibals, who would immediately devour the unhappy wanderer who loſt ſight of the Guard-Ship: But Captain Cook never entertained an idea, that the poor miſerable naked natives of New Holland are Canibals, He, or Dr. Hawkſworth for him, ſays, Vol. 3. p. 506.

" All the Inhabitants that we ſaw were " ſtark naked; they did not appear to be " nume-

" numerous, nor to live in ſocieties, but like " other animals were ſcattered about along " the Coaſt, and in the Woods. Of their " manner of life, however, we could know " but little, as we were never able to form " the leaſt connection with them." And he deſcribes the Country in theſe Words. p. 497.

" We found the Soil to be either ſwamp " or light ſand, and the face of the Country " to be finely diverſifyed by Wood and " Lawns. The Trees are tall, ſtrait, and " without underwood, ſtanding at ſuch a " diſtance from each other that the whole " Country, at leaſt where the Swamps do " not render it incapable of cultivation, " might be cultivated without cutting down " one of them: between the trees the " ground is covered with graſs, of which " there is a great abundance, growing in " tufts about as big as can be well graſped " in the hand, which ſtand very cloſe to each " other. We ſaw many houſes of the Inha- " bitants, and Places where they had ſlept " upon the graſs without any ſhelter."

Who-

Whoever will caſt an eye on the Map, and ſee the extent of NEW HOLLAND,

from *Van Diemen's Land* in . . 43½ S
to *Carpentaria* in . . . . . 10½ S

muſt perceive, that this Country has a *greater extent* of *Coaſt* than that of *America*, we have loſt, in all the variety of Climate, from the Tropical Regions, to almoſt the utmoſt limit of the Temperate Zone, and is in a ſtate fit for immediate habitation, without clearing away and cutting down woods, at ſuch a remote diſtance from *this Country*, that a Colony eſtabliſhed there, however formed, muſt become independant, whenever they find it their Intereſt to be ſo.

We muſt therefore examine the probable incitements to dependance or independance:

If the Intercourſe is meant to be kept up with this Country, then all the evils of Smugling will moſt certainly take place; and, in the preſent ſtate of Europe, it is notorious that it is impoſſible to prevent it, without the utmoſt energy of Government: Men, who judge of things ſuperficially, will conſider the exportation of our manufactures, an ob-

ject

ject of ſuch conſequence, that they will think it *no injury*, but an advantage to this Country, for a Daniſh Indiaman (for example) to come into the Thames, to carry an Engliſh Cargo to the Eaſt Indies. But, without conſidering that it is prejudicial to Commerce for a Market to be overſtocked; and that the State of ſo diſtant a market is difficult to know, and conſequently to regulate the proper Supply, The *National Loſs* is extreme, by the Returning Cargoes brought from India; not to be ſmugled into this Iſland, and ſo to defraud the Revenue, but for the Supply of other parts of Europe; and thereby to undermine the *eſſential Intereſts* of *this Country*, as the GENERAL EMPORIUM of EUROPE, in the Preſervation whereof, The Energy of This Kingdom depends, and which, *alone*, can prevent the internal regulations of Foreign States from taking effect, to the diſadvantage of our manufactures and trade.

If this be conſidered, it cannot be doubted that an intercourſe kept up with *New Holland*,

would act as a two edged weapon, to promote ſmugling at home, and to cover that worſt of all kinds of illicit Trade, The encreaſe of the Trade of Foreigners, carried on by Engliſhmen, and Engliſh Property, under falſe colours: which though *moſt injurious* to THIS COUNTRY, is leſs the Object of Miniſterial Attention, as its *effect* on their *Darling*, the *Revenue*, being *not immediate*, is *not* obvious, to their narrow-ſighted Policy.

If it is not meant to keep up an intercourſe with *New Holland*, then the neceſſities of the people left there, will drive them more immediately to provide for themſelves by excurſions, and we cannot ſuppoſe ſuch Men, will be reſtrained by any principles of Honour or Juſtice, but will direct their efforts, againſt thoſe, who can beſt ſupply their wants, and deſires, in their new abode: and the Plunder they acquire, will draw *Traders*, of all *European Nations*, and from *America*, to come to Them.

If we had *nothing* to *loſe* in the EAST, it might be a curious ſubject of *Political Speculation*,

*lation*, to ſee what kind of Government, a Set of lawleſs Ragamuffins would conſtitute, but if Miniſters were not as ignorant of what is paſt, as they are blind to the future, They would know, that The French Eſtabliſhments in the *Weſt* at *San Domingo*, and in the *Eaſt* at *Mauritius*; were engrafted on the Stock of *Pirates*.

But We having ſo much at Stake, It is ſurely Madneſs, or Folly, to expoſe our poſſeſſions and Commerce in the Eaſt Indies, to ſo much hazard, without ſome great and important Motive.

It has been reported, the Convicts at the *Woolwich Univerſity*, and elſewhere in England, coſt £100,000 ℔ Annum: I believe, every man muſt be convinced, that ſuch a *Sum*, well diſpoſed, would make it impoſſible for any *Thief* to get *to ſleep* before he was detected, and if Culprits knew it was impoſſible to eſcape immediate detection, There would be ſoon an end to the trade, unleſs ill-judged lenity ſent them back to

prey on the publick: The *Security* of the *Individual* is the FIRST OBJECT, for which men ſubmitted to be *governed*; and that Government which does *not ſecure* the *Individual*, is *weak* or *proſtituted:* But what Man is there, in London, who can go to bed in ſafety without a Houſe full of Servants?

The alarming Number of Convicts, and the great difficulty of keeping them in England, without danger to Society, and the many evil conſequences of the Hulks, not to mention the very great expence, are Facts, too well known, to be doubted or denied, but *reverſe* of *wrong* is *not right:* and although I am an Enemy to the propoſed Scheme, I am no Advocate for continuing the preſent abominable practice.

Many Modes of diſpoſing of the Convicts may be propoſed: but, at this time, I ſhall only diſcuſs the circumſtances which muſt attend the preſent Plan, merely as a matter of expence; and point out *one Place* to which they

they can *now* be ſent, with leſs Expence to the Public, and without any danger from future conſequences.

The Convicts, if ſent to Botany Bay, cannot be ſuppoſed to get thither ſooner than May 1787, if they ſail from England by the beginning of November.

The Winter will then be ſetting in, in the Southern Hemiſphere, without any Shelter to cover the Convicts, when landed; and they muſt be ſupplied with Proviſions for at *leaſt* 4 Months longer, or 10 Months from leaving England: though when the remote diſtance, from all Countries from whence Supplies can be drawn, is duely conſidered, a larger Stock muſt be allowed to be requiſite for their ſubſiſtence, before they can be, in any degree, in a ſtate to ſupport themſelves.

If inſtead of Botany Bay, they be ſent to *Triſtan da Cunha*, in 37° S° Latitude, between AFRICA and AMERICA, the Voyage being ſo much ſhorter, they might probably be ſent ſooner from England; and as their paſſage

would

would be about two months, they would probably arrive early in January, whereby they would have the height of Summer, to prepare for their Winter Habitations, and the Stock, that would be conſumed in the courſe of the other Voyage, would be ſo much ſaved of the expence in the outfit, and they will be ſo near the *Cape of Good Hope*, as eaſily to be ſupplied from *thence*, or from *England*, by the *Southern Whalers*, at little or no expence, as *Theſe Whalers* would carry ſuch neceſſaries as they may want, in exchange for the Oil that may be collected.

The Country at Botany Bay does not appear, from Captain Cook's deſcription, to afford a certain ſupply of Proviſions; and if that Supply is to be had *by hunting*, The *Convicts* muſt have *Fire-arms* and *Ammunition* to enable them to obtain that Supply: and if they have *Arms*, who knows how ſoon they may become *Hunters of Men*? Whereas the abundance of Sea Lions, Penguins, &c. at Triſtan da Cunha, will ſecure plenty of Proviſions,

Proviſions, ſo that the expence of Salt Proviſions will be ſaved, and the only Supply wanted will be bread, till they can grow Potatoes.

The Situation of *Triſtan da Cunha* makes all *Governors* and *Guard unneceſſary*, whereby that *expence* will be *ſaved*: and the Convicts ought to be left to themſelves *without Arms*, and with ſuch ſmall boats only, as could not go off the Coaſt.

The largeſt Iſland of *Triſtan da Cunha* is at leaſt 5 or 6 leagues in circuit, ſo that there is extent ſufficient for the preſent exportation of Convicts; and *Triſtan da Cunha* is too remote for them to eſcape, or to be any way dangerous, and they may become uſeful to Ships hereafter.

The greateſt part of the Convicts have become delinquents from diſſipation and bad Company; ſuch under certain circumſtances may be reclaimed: One fundamental Point, neceſſary towards reſtoring any of them to the Community, as good Citizens, is the *total*

*oblite-*

*obliteration* of *their Offences from Memory*; and to effect *This*, Their Names ſhould be changed; that their Character may not be loſt, without freſh Offences.

The great Conſumption of Men for Military Recruits abroad, makes every mode of obtaining ſuch Drafts, an object of Political Attention: and I have no doubt that the greater part of the tranſported Convicts might be ſo applied, without injury to the Publick; at the ſame time that it was made an incitement to their own reformation, but this effect can only take place, if they are ſent to a proper ſituation.

A Queſtion may perhaps ariſe whether it is legal for Miniſters to *tranſport Convicts*, who are ſentenced for a *limited time*, to a Country whence they cannot, at their own option, return on the termination of that limited time; but it will ſurely be allowed, that the intention of the Law was "that "the Subject, ſo condemned, was to be "reſtored to the Community, at the expira-

"tion

" tion of the term, for which he was tranſ-
" ported," otherwiſe naming a limited time would be abſurd.

All Modes of diſpoſing of the Convicts, in which They are to be their own Maſters, takes away, in part, the effect as a *Puniſhment:* but, at *Triſtan da Cunha*, their proſpect of comfort is ſo ſmall, without the utmoſt exertions of induſtry, that, although *leſs eligible* than where they are *compelled* to *work* for *others*, it will probably bring moſt of them, to a due ſenſe of their folly; particularly if they are left to the rigour of their own Government; or brought to that Senſe of the benefits of regulated Society, which Anarchy would produce: though I conceive a rigorous Government, is more likely than Anarchy, to take place: and when habits of induſtry are eſtabliſhed, and their manners corrected, by reſidence, for ſome time, in this *Penitential-Iſland*, the term of tranſportation may be ſhortened, to ſuch as are admitted to go to India or Africa as Recruits.

The other Iſlands of *Triſtan da Cunha* may be uſed as a Place of baniſhment for very turbulent or refractory perſons: and if theſe three Iſlands ſhould hereafter be found too ſmall, part of the Convicts may be tranſported to *Gough's Iſland*, in 40°. ¼ S. or, with The Eaſt India Company's permiſſion, to *St. Paul*, *Amſterdam* and the *other Iſlands*, ſcattered over that Ocean, to the Eaſtward of the *Cape of Good Hope*, which Iſlands, like *Triſtan da Cunha*, are too remote from other Lands, for the Convicts to eſcape, or to do any miſchief; though they may become of uſe to Ships calling there occaſionally.

The annexed Accounts of *Triſtan da Cunha*, are taken from Mr. Dalrymple's Nautical Publications.

It might be ſatisfactory to conſider all the various modes of diſpoſing of the Convicts, out of England; but I have not at preſent leiſure to do this.

If

If this mad Scheme muſt go on, I hope we ſhall not hear of any *Grants* of *Land* to *Miniſters*, or their Friends, whereby this Country may be linked to that *Land* of *Thieves*.

Some men have ſuggeſted that the Plan of ſending the Convicts to New Holland, may involve us in diſputes with other European Nations, who may claim the *right* of *antecedent Diſcovery*. That The Country, be it called *New Wales*, or *New Holland*, or by whatever name, was diſcovered long before Capt. Cook's Voyage, is obvious from a very ancient Map in which it is deſcribed: but I am ignorant what Nation can claim that Diſcovery. The Map appears to be in date not long ſubſequent to Magellan's Voyage; and I think, may be aſſuredly determined to be above *two hundred* years old. The *Dutch* alſo, though much later than that period, in the beginning of the preſent Century, and conſequently long before Captain Cook, are reported, by Nicolas Struyck, to have ſur-

veyed the Eaſtern Coaſt of New Holland, except one Inlet, of which Voyage, he ſays, he had ſeen the MS. Chart.

I do not think Diſcoveries not communicated to the World, can give any excluſive right to the Firſt Diſcoverer; but that every ground of pretenſion is forfeited by their concealment: at the ſame time, foreſeeing, as I do, the many dangerous conſequences to be dreaded from this *Thieviſh Plan*, I ſhall not be ſorry, if it ſhould be given up from apprehenſions, which I think groundleſs, ſince real danger cannot influence Miniſters to deſiſt.

I am no party man, under the term *Miniſters*, to mean general condemnation of every perſon in *Adminiſtration*; nor to deny *any man* the degree of merit that is *due* to *him*; but I cannot proſtitute praiſe to the Arrogance of ſelf-ſufficient Indiſcretion, as if it was the Emanation of Political Sagacity.

October, 1786.

Extract from Mr. *Dalrymple's* EXPLANATION of PLANS of PORTS.

THE Engliſh Pilot for the *Oriental Navigation*, commonly called *The Wagoner*, ſays,

" TRISTAN DA CUNHA lyes in the La-
" titude of 37° 7′ S. Longitude from the
" LIZARD about 10° 30′ W. This *Iſland* is
" ſteep to, about half a mile from the Shoar
" 13 and 14 fms and ſo decreaſing gradually
" to 3 fms cloſe to the Shoar; there is no
" *Shoal* nor *broken ground* lying off it, except
" a ſmall matter of the *Points*. It is very
" difficult getting aſhore here with a Boat in
" ſome Places, for near to the Shoar there is
" large bodied trees growing under water,
" the tops of which lye almoſt even with the
" ſurface, ſo that in going aſhoar you are
" forced to row in and out amongſt the
" Boughs. About a ſmall Bowſhot from the
" Shoar ſide there is *freſh water* to be had, but

" the

" the way is very ſtoney, ſo that you cannot
" well get it on board without rowling on
" boards or handing it. There you will find
" abundance of *Seals*, ſome of them being
" as big as *Elephants*, which you may cut
" down with an axe, for they will not reſiſt
" you. Here is *abundance* of *driſt wood:* and
" ſeveral ſmall *ſprings* amongſt the *Rocks*:
" In ſome Places *there is going aſhore.** "
" Here is neither *Goats* nor *Hogs*, nor, by
" report, no other Creature but theſe *Seals*,
" except a ſtrange ſort of a *Bird* which goes
" upright.

" *Note*, That *three quarters* of a *mile* off
" this *Island* there is *no ground* with 100 fms
" line. § "

An

* In the latter Editions " You may eaſily land."

§ Burgomaſter *Wilſon* informs us that *Vlaming* viſited theſe *Iſlands* in 1697 that " he found nothing there but many " *whales*, *ſeals*, and *fiſh* in great abundance, and *Birds* " innumerable, ſo tame that they let you catch them by " hand,

## An Account of TRISTAN da CUNHA by Capt. *Francis Cheyne.*

" The *Pilot Book* gives an Account of but " *one*, and that there is no danger round it " except a ſmall matter off the Points, but as " I paſſed it to the Southward I obſerved a " *low Point* run out from the NW part of the " *Iſland* and from that a great *long Ledge* of " *Rocks* out into the Sea with very *high* " *Breakers*, I obſerved no danger but near " the ſhoar any where elſe, The *other Islands* " bear from THIS as follow

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The *Weſtmoſt* . . . . | SWbW | 6 or 7 leagues. |
| The *S.moſt* . . . . | SSW½W | 6 or 7 leagues. |

" Theſe

---

" hand, as *Penguins*, *Sea Gulls*, &c. Theſe ISLANDS pro- " duced *Trees* and *Herbs* unknown to them and conſiſt of " *Three* ISLANDS, of which the *largeſt* was covered with " *Snow*, and the *leaſt* is a parcel of broken rocks, looking " like the Fragments of a ruined Caſtle. They *all* yield " *water* for drink and are fit to be viſited in Summer, for " in a ſhort time you may procure *water*, *fiſh* and *birds* in " plenty, and, in caſe of neceſſity, *Fuel:* though the " landing is *good* but in *few Places*, occaſioned by the *ſteep* " *Coaſt* and the *great Surf* along it. Likewiſe every where " thereabout no ⊕ and the Cables were greatly damaged."

" Theſe *three biggeſt* form a *Triangle*;
The *S°moſt* bears from the *Weſtmoſt* SEbE¼E 4 or 5 leagues.

" The 4*th* is very ſmall, nothing but a
" *Rock*, and near the *S°moſt*.

" The *largeſt* conſiſts chiefly of *one very*
" *high Mountain*, full of wood, and is bigger
" than ST. HELENA conſiderably, the South-
" moſt part of IT ſeems cleareſt and a little
" level Land, The SW part appeared to me
" to be a bold rocky ſhoar, but not ſteep
" on the Land cloſe to the Sea, but a gradual
" aſcent, with ſeveral ſingle rocks ſtanding
" on the Beach.

" The *Weſtmoſt Island* about ⅓ as big as
" ST. HELENA and not very unlike the out-
" ſide appearance, but I believe more in-
" acceſſible, I ſaw ſome ſmall wood on the
" SE part, but I believe it does not abound
" with it, there is a ſmall *ledge* of *Rocks*
" runs out from the NW *Point* in towards
the

" the Sea. The *Southmoſt Island* is a meer
" *Rock*, without ſhrub or tree, as I could
" diſcern with my glaſs, about half as big as
" the *Weſtmoſt Island*."

*Obſervations* made on the *Islands* TRISTAN da CUNHA by the *Sieur Donat* on board the *Packet* L'HEURE DU BERGER on the paſſage to MAURITIUS in September 1767.

" In coming from the *Weſtward*, coaſted
" the *Weſt ſide* of INACCESSIBLE *Iſland*, along
" which ſaw no danger: At the *S.°* *extre-*
" *mity* of *this Iſland* obſerved a *little Iſlot*:
" After quitting this *Iſland*, at which did not
" obſerve any proper place for landing;
" ſtood for NIGHTINGALE *Island*, as it is
" named by the *Dutch*, which has ſeveral
" *little Iſlots* on the *N.°* *ſide*.

" 10th Sept. At 5 PM The Packet ↓
" 36 *grey ſand* and *ſhells*; during the 36



" hours

" hours the veſſel lay here could not find
" any proper place for *watering*. The *Plan*
" does not mark the *S.*° and *SE* parts of the
" ISLAND, not having approached very near,
" but it is conjectured to form a *Triangle*
" nearly; obſerved the Latitude at ⊕
" 37.° 24′ S Long. A 15.° 38′ W from *Paris*
" (= 13.° 17′ W from *Greenwich.*)

" The 12th Sept. Sailed for the *largeſt*
" ISLAND, which is the *higheſt*, and of which
" the *Top* of the *Mountain* then appeared
" covered with *Snow*.

" On the N.° ſide of the *large* ISLAND,
" a *rivulet* was ſeen, cloſe to the ſhoar,
" and having ſent to ſound, ⊕ oppoſite to
" it in 36, *coarſe grey ſand* and *ſmall ſtones*,
" the Boat that had been ſent to examine the
" *Watering place*, reported that a long-boat
" might eaſily approach the *rivulet*; but after
" ⊕, having ſent the Boat to the ſhoar, it
" was found the water had fallen 5 Feet,
" and

" and ſeveral Rocks appeared, which pre-
" vented their reaching the ſhoar. When
" the Water roſe the two Boats were diſ-
" patched, and from Midnight to 6 AM
" they got 30 Caſks of water; about a Muſ-
" quet ſhot to the *Eaſtward* of the *Rivulet*
" were two ſmall *freſh Water Lakes*, appa-
" rently formed by the melting of the *Snow*.

" There is plenty of Shrubs of 8 or 9 feet
" high on the *Mountains* as well as on the
" *Hills*, and about the thickneſs of a man's
" thigh, but it is very difficult to penetrate
" the Country on account of the creepers *
" and ruſhes.

" The *Penguins* ſeem to make their *Neſts* †
" in the *Mountains* as well as ſome Birds
" like Magpies ‡.

" Here alſo were ſeen many *Seals* and *Sea*
" *Lyons*, of two kinds, *one* like *Seals*, the

 " *other*

* Lianes & roſeaux. † couvées. ‡ margaux.

" *other* ſuch as *Admiral Anſon* found at JUAN " FERNANDES.

" Here were caught plenty of *Fiſh* very " like *Cod*, but flatter and broader in pro- " portion to the length, the largeſt weighed " from 10 to 12lb when taken out of the " water, the Fleſh is ſhorter and drier than " Cod."

Extract of the Journal of *L'Etoile du Matin*, M. *D' Etchevery*.

" 9th Sept. 1767. At 5 AM. I made the " *three* Iſlands of *Triſtan d' Acunha* bearing " E and EbN, about 10 or 12 leagues diſ- " tance.

" The winds then weſterly, I ſteered E " to examine the *middle Island*, which is the " *Weſtmoſt*, and being at Noon, abreaſt the " NE *Point*, I ſounded at a mile diſtance " from ſhoar, and when the *middle* of the

" *Iſlan*

" *Island* bore W. had 20 fath. *black ſand* and
" *ſmall rediſh ſtones.*

" This *Island* is high, flat a top; it may be
" ſeen 15 or 16 leagues, it is about 2 leagues
" in circuit and appears *barren*, ſteep and *in-*
" *acceſſable*, ſome ſcattered ſhrubs are only
" to be ſeen on it. I perceived no danger
" near it, only a *Rock*, like a Boat under *ſail*,
" is viſible at the *SE. point.*

" I ſtood on, leaving this *Island*, to examine
" the *ſmalleſt* which is 3 leagues diſtant to
" the SE. It has at the *NE Point* two *Islots*
" ſeperated from it about 50 paces, and
" which have the appearance of an *old ruin-*
" *ed Fort*, I paſſed along at piſtol ſhot diſ-
" tance. In continuing to ſteer along the
" *Island* I found ground at 30 fath. and,
" when *Its middle* bore WSW, I anchored
" in 33 fath. *coarſeiſh brown* and *rediſh ſand.*

" The night threatning bad weather, I
" poſtponed ſending the Boat aſhoar till
" morn-

" morning, according to the Report made
" to me, the ſhoar, as far as ¼ league off,
" is ſo full of ſea-weed* twined together,
" that there is much trouble to approach the
" *barren rock* which forms this *Island.*

" The Reeds†, with which It is covered,
" did not let them penetrate the *Island*, be-
" ſides the great numbers of *Penguins*, of
" which the Eggs are ſo cloſe together that
" they could not walk without breaking
" them. Theſe Difficulties, and the want
" of *freſh water*, which they ſearched for in
" vain, induced them to return aboard.
" They ſaw plenty of fiſh on the Coaſt, and
" aboard many were caught; There are
" ſome large ones a good deal like *Cod.*
" The Lat. of this Iſland is 37° 24′ S.

" The 10th Sept. I weighed anchor in the
" morning and ſteered towards *Triſtan d' A-*
" *cunha*,

† Gouemons. † Roſeaux.

" *cunha*, the largeſt of theſe *three Islands*,
" which lyes about 5 leagues to the NNE of
" the little one: *It* is about 5 leagues in
" circuit and ſo high that it may be ſeen 25
" leagues. The Peak in the middle of it
" is covered with *Snow*, and the land down
" to the Sea is only covered with Buſhes.
" In coaſting the *Island* very near, after
" doubling the NW *Point*, I deſcryed a *Caſ-*
" *cade* which falls into a *little Bay*, I ſent the
" Boat to ſound this part, and as they found
" 18 fath. cloſe to Land, and 30 at a $\frac{1}{4}$
" league from the ſhoar, I anchored in the
" laſt, *grey ſand* mixed with *ſmall pebbles*.

" The Boat which went aſhoar found no
" difficulty in approaching it but from the
" entangled Sea-weed, which bars all the
" Coaſt; they brought aboard a Caſk of *Freſh-*
" *water*, and informed me it was eaſily got,
" but that they could not land except to the
" larboard hand of the *Caſcade*, on a beach of
" round pebbles about the ſize of an egg;

" to

" to the Starboard of the *Caſcade* are *Rocks*
" on which the Sea *breaks* much.

" The Shoar is covered with *Seals* and *Sea-*
" *Lions*, we caught plenty of fiſh, eſpecially
" the kind of *Cod* before ſpoken of. To
" conclude, after having watered at this
" Iſland, I ſailed the 13th Sept."

The following Account is the tranſlation of a Dutch MS. in poſſeſſion of Sir *Joſeph Banks* Bart. there are many circumſtances in it very obſcure.

" In the year 1659 the Ship * *Sgraveland*,
" run in at the Iſlands of TRISTAN DA
" CUNHA, intending to depart through the
" ſame Strait, which would have been im-
" practicable by the ſtrong Current, but
" ſhould have been obliged to chooſe ano-
" ther Strait, when they entered ſo deep into
" this, that they could not ſee nor diſcern
" the Sea more.

" Likewiſe

* The name of a village in Holland.

" Likewiſe in the year 1643, the Ship
" *Heemſtede* * run in at the ſame ISLANDS;
" when on the 7th of Febr$^{y}$. in the afternoon,
" the wind being eaſterly with fine weather,
" they diſcovered a *very high land*, by gueſs
" 15 Leagues diſtant, bearing SSE, running
" ſharply towards the top, and ſloping to-
" wards the North and Weſt ſides, when
" they ſteered their courſe thither, and came
" the 8th of February cloſe under the Eaſt
" ſide, when they found at the North ſide
" a high ſteep point, but no anchoring
" ground. For this reaſon they run along
" the Iſland WbS with an Eaſterly wind and
" fine weather; ſent the boat out cloſe
" under ſhoar, and found to the Weſt of the
" ſteep point (before mentioned) at the Eaſt
" ſide of the Iſland, a depth of 50 fath.
" *black ſhingle ground* about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a league
" from the ſhoar, when they anchored in
" 15 fath. *black ground* about $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues
" to the Weſt of the Eaſt point abovemen-



" tioned,

* The Name of a Village in Holland.

" tioned, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a league from the ſhoar.
" The boat did find at the Weſt ſide a good
" watering place, good water and fiſh, but
" the Ship, by the high Weſt wind could not
" approach the watering place, and the boat
" being obliged to row diagonally to the
" land, found little water but fine vegetables
" for refreſhment; no Human Creatures
" nor Animals; and the Ship was at that
" place three days retarded by high Weſterly
" winds. But on the 11th of that month,
" with an Eaſterly wind, they run along the
" Shoar W$\frac{1}{2}$S in 15 fath, perceiving, near the
" ſecond high point, a little river, 3 leagues
" diſtant from the E point.

" One league to the Eaſt, and one league
" to the Weſt of this place is foul ground,
" but this Iſland is at the North ſide very fine
" to approach. The day following they
" anchored before the right watering place,
" in 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ fath, black ſand ground, a Cannon
" ſhot from the ſhoar, the Weſt point of the
" Iſland WSW $\frac{2}{3}$ of a league diſtant. It

" had

" had farther a low *flat Point*, green upon " the top, with a reef running down from " the Land, about the diſtance of a muſquet " ſhot ſtretching NWbW.

" Near this flat Point they ſaw a great " number of Sea Lions as large as Oxen, " and abundance of Birds, as Penguins, and " Sea Gulls, which could be caught with the " hand.

" There was likewiſe plenty of Sea Fiſh, " as Sea Perch, &c. what was wanted could " eaſily be caught with the Hook, but they " did not ſee any animal.

" The water was as clear and fine as fountain " water, and run down from the Cliffs, the " boat lay between two Cliffs in ſmooth " water, the Butts were filled in the Boat, " and they muſt carry this water in Buckets " about a Ships length, they likewiſe gathered " ſome Vegetables.

" At the North ſide the depth was 70 or " 80 fath. which diminiſhing gradually you " may run as near as you like to Anchor,

" which

" which is more circumſtantially to be ſeen
" in the Deſcription under N°. and of
" which the General and Counſellors of
" Batavia by their Letter hitherward * of
" the 22d, of December 1643 promiſe
" to ſend a more particular relation to the
" § Aſſembly of Seventeen.

" The abovementioned ISLAND is found
" to be mountainous of about 18 Engliſh
" miles circumference. At the South Eaſt
" ſide compoſed of a very ſteep and round
" Mountain, at the South ſide Cliffs, and
" barren Ground, but at the North Weſt ſide
" flat and green with good anchoring Ground
" in 12 to 20 fathoms where the before-
" mentioned Ship had been at Anchor 8 days,
" and found good freſh water, where with
" very fine vegetables, Fiſh and Sea gulls,
" all which is there in a ſurprizing abundance,
" the crew was well refreſhed, but this is
" all more fully related above."

* Hitherward i. e. to Amſterdam, or perhaps to Middleburgh being the Places of meeting for the 17 Deputies in the proportion of 6 years at Amſterdam, and 2 years at Middleburgh.

§ Chambers or otherwiſe Council of 17.